

IN THE CLAIMS

*Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, and 25, as follows:*

1. (Currently Amended) A private instant communications processing element for connection in a private communication network and for use in conjunction with a first carrier network, the first carrier network providing wireless access to a first plurality of wireless user devices operative in the first carrier network, the first plurality of wireless user devices comprising ~~at least one~~ a first plurality of private user device devices associated with the private communication network, each said first private user device being uniquely associated with a corresponding one of a first plurality of user identifiers for user identification, and being configured to route the first carrier network routing signals from the ~~at least one~~ first plurality of private user device devices to the private instant communications processing element of the private communication network, the private instant communications processing element being adapted to:

assign a generic identifier for the first plurality of private user devices in a carrier network delivered instant communications session;

for each said first private user device in the instant communications session:

receive, via the first carrier network, instant communications signals from the ~~at least one~~ said first private user device; and

perform instant communications signal processing upon receiving the received instant communications signals for the ~~at least one~~ first private user device for producing a combined signal having with the generic identifier instead of the user identifier of said first private user device; and

and to transmit, via the first carrier network, the processed instant communications signals in the combined signal with the generic identifier to a carrier instant communications processing element of the first carrier network for communication to other wireless user devices operative in the first carrier

network, so that the instant communications signals are received without the user identifier of said first private user device being revealed.

2. (Currently Amended) The private instant communications processing element of claim 1 ~~further adapted to;~~

~~assign a generic identifier for the at least one first private user device to be included in a carrier network delivered instant communications session;~~

~~generate a combined signal for the at least one first private user device to be included in the network delivered instant communications session and transmit, via the first carrier network, the combined signal to the carrier instant communications processing element using the generic identifier for inclusion as an input to the network delivered instant communications communication session wherein the instant communications signals are received by the carrier instant communications processing element and the other wireless user devices without the user identifier being revealed.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The private instant communications processing element of claim 2 wherein the combined signal is transmitted to the carrier instant communications processing element which comprises a PoC (push-to-talk over cellular) server within the carrier network where the combined signal is treated as coming from a single user.

4. (Currently Amended) The private instant communications processing element of claim 1 for use in further conjunction with a second carrier network, the second carrier network providing wireless access to a second plurality of user devices operative in the second carrier network, the second plurality of user devices comprising at least one a second plurality of private user device devices, each said second private user device being uniquely associated with a corresponding one of a second plurality of user identifiers for user identification, and being configured to route the second carrier

network routing signals from at least one the plurality of second private user device devices to the private instant communications processing element in the private communication network, and wherein the generic identifier is a first generic identifier, the private instant communications processing element is being further adapted to:

assign a second generic identifier for the second plurality of private user devices in the carrier network delivered instant communications session;

for each said second private user device in the instant communications session:

receive, via the second carrier network, instant communications signals from the at least one said second private user device;

perform instant communications processing on the instant communications signals received from the at least one first private user device and the at least one said second private user device to produce the processed instant communications signals for transmission, via the first carrier network, to a first carrier instant communications processing element for communication to the other wireless user devices operative in the first carrier network and to produce processed instant communications signals for producing a combined signal having the second generic identifier instead of the user identifier associated with said second private user device; and

for transmission transmit, via the second carrier network, the instant communications signals in the combined signal with the second generic identifier to a second carrier instant communications processing element of the second carrier network for communication to other wireless user devices operative in the first second carrier network, so that the instant communications signals are received without the user identifier of said second private user device being revealed.

5. (Original) The private instant communications processing element of claim 4 where the first plurality of user devices comprises at least one first regular user

device, and the second plurality of user devices comprises at least one second regular user device, adapted to:

assign a first generic user identifier appearing as a single user within a first instant communications session established by the first carrier network and to assign a second generic user identifier appearing as a single user within a second instant communications session established by the second carrier network;

combine all second regular user device signals and all first and second private user device signals into a first combined signal and sending the first combined signal to a carrier instant communications processing element of the first carrier network which in turn sends it to first regular user devices via the first carrier network using the first generic identifier;

combine all first regular user device signals and all first and second private user device signals into a second combined signal and sending the second combined signal to a carrier instant communications processing element of the second carrier network which in turn sends it to second regular user devices via the second carrier network using the second generic identifier;

combine signals from a carrier instant communications processing element of the first carrier network and a carrier instant communications processing element of the second carrier network into a third combined signal and sending the third combined signal to first private user devices via the first network and to the second private user devices via the second network.

6. (Original) The private instant communications processing element of claim 5 further adapted to disclose a number of participants behind the first generic identifier to carrier instant communications processing element of the first carrier network for billing purpose.

7. (Original) The private instant communications processing element of claim 2 further adapted to provide enhanced security features for the at least one first private user device.

8. (Previously Presented) The private instant communications processing element of claim 1 wherein:

the instant communications comprises push-to-talk over cellular communications and the carrier instant communications processing element comprises a PoC (push-to-talk over cellular) server.

9. (Previously Presented) The private instant communications processing element of claim 1 wherein:

the instant communications comprises half-duplex communications.

10. (Previously Presented) The private instant communications processing element of any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein:

the instant communications comprises instant text messaging.

11. (Previously Presented) The private instant communications processing element of claim 1 comprising a GLMS (group list management server), a presence server and a PoC server.

12. (Original) The private instant communications processing element of claim 9 wherein the GLMS, the presence server and the PoC server are for connection to the first carrier network through standard interfaces.

13. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first carrier network delivering wireless access to regular user devices and private user devices, and comprising a CICP (carrier instant communications processing element) adapted to deliver an instant communications session in respect of a plurality of input signals; and

a PICP (private instant communications processing element) adapted to connect in a private communication network having a plurality of private user devices associated therewith, each said private user device being uniquely associated with a corresponding one of a plurality of user identifiers for user identification[,]; and

the PICP being further adapted to receive and combine instant communication signals from ~~at least one~~ of the private user devices operating in the first carrier network into a combined generic signal for inclusion as one of the input signals to an the instant communications session delivered by the CICP via said the first carrier network, the combined generic signal being communicated to the CICP with a generic identifier instead of any of the user identifiers of the private user devices so that the user identifiers of the private user devices are not revealed.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein:

the instant communications comprises push-to-talk over cellular communications.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein:

the instant communications comprises half-duplex communications.

16. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein:

the instant communications comprises instant text messaging.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the CICP comprises a first CICP, the method further comprising:

a second carrier network delivering wireless access to regular user devices and private user devices, and comprising a second CICP (carrier instant communications processing element) adapted to deliver an instant communications session in respect of a plurality of input signals;

the PICP (private instant communications processing element) being further adapted to receive and combine instant communications signals from ~~at least one of~~ the private user devices operating in the second carrier network into a combined generic signal for inclusion as one of the input inputs to an the instant communications session delivered by the second CICP via said second carrier network, the combined generic signal being communicated to the second CICP such that the user identifiers of the private user devices are not revealed.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 adapted to set up an the instant communications session by:

the PICP receiving a request from one of the at least one private user device containing a user identification identifier and containing invitees comprising other private users and/or regular users;

sending the invitation to the invited private network users via the first carrier network;

receiving acceptances or rejections of the invitation and adding users to a list of users for the session;

assigning ~~a~~ the generic identifier for the private users on the instant communications session;

sending an invitation to regular invitees via the carrier instant communications processing element containing the generic identifier and identifiers of the regular invitees;

the carrier instant communications processing element establishing ~~an~~ the instant communications session including the generic identifier and the regular invitees that accepted the invitation.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 adapted to set up ~~an~~ the instant communications session by:

receiving a request from one of the private user devices containing a user ~~identification~~ identifier and containing invitees comprising other private users;

sending the invitation to the invited private network users via the carrier network; and

receiving acceptances or rejections of the invitation and adding users to a list of users for the instant communications session.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 adapted to set up ~~an~~ the instant communications session by:

receiving a request for instant communications, the request comprising an identifier of a user device making the request, and containing invitees comprising a combination of one or more of private users on A (the first carrier network), regular users on A, private users on B (the second carrier network B), and regular users on B;

the PICP assigning a first generic identifier to the first carrier network and a second generic identifier to the second carrier network;

the PICP sending the invitation to the private users on A and B via appropriate carrier network, receiving the private users acceptances/rejections and adding users to each generic ID accordingly;

the PICP sending an invitation to any regular users on A through the CICP of A using the first generic ID;

the PICP sending an invitation to any regular users on B through the CICP of B using the second generic ID;

the CICP of network A establishing an instant communications session between the regular users on A and a single generic identifier user having the first generic identifier; and

the CICP of network B establishing an instant communications session between regular users on B and a single generic ID user having the second generic identifier.

21. (Currently Amended) A wireless user device having wireless access via a carrier network, the wireless user device comprising:

a regular instant communications client adapted to participate in carrier network delivered instant communications sessions delivered via a carrier instant communications processing element of the carrier network when the wireless user device operates in the carrier network, where the session communications from the wireless user device are communicated with a user identifier associated with the wireless user device; and

a private instant communications client adapted to participate in instant communications sessions delivered via the carrier instant communications processing element of the carrier network, such that session communications are routed and processed through a private instant communications processing element of a private communication network[,] when the wireless user device operates in the carrier network, where the session communications from the wireless user device are assigned and communicated with a generic identifier by the private instant communications processing element instead of the user identifier of the wireless user device so that the user identifier is not revealed in the session communications.

22. (Original) The wireless user device of claim 21 wherein the regular instant communications client is a first push-to-talk over cellular client, and the private instant communications client is a second push-to-talk over cellular client.

23. (Currently Amended) The wireless user device of claim 21 wherein the ~~private instant communications client will not release private information related to the communication sessions that the private instant communications client participates in to the carrier network while a regular instant communications client in the same device also concurrently participates in a communication session generic identifier is assigned to session communications from each one of a plurality of private user devices associated with the private communication network.~~

24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having processor executable instructions stored thereon for execution by a wireless user device operating in a carrier network, and comprising:

a regular instant communications client adapted to participate in carrier network delivered instant communications sessions delivered via a carrier instant communications processing element of the carrier network when the wireless user device operates in the carrier network, where the session communications from the wireless user device are communicated with a user identifier associated with the wireless user device; and

a private instant communications client adapted to participate in instant communications sessions delivered via the carrier instant communications processing element of the carrier network, such that session communications are routed and processed through a private instant communications processing element in a private communication network[,] when the wireless user device operates in the carrier network, the session communications from the wireless user device are assigned and communicated with a generic identifier by the private instant communications processing element instead of the user identifier of the wireless user device so that the user identifier is not revealed in the session communications.

25. (Currently Amended) A system adapted to provide a PoC communication session including private user devices and regular user devices in which signals of the private user devices are included in the PoC communication session in a manner that hides identities user identifiers of the private user devices, the system comprising a PICP (private instant communications processing element) of a private communication network which is adapted to receive and process the signals from the private user devices operating in a carrier network for communication to a CICP (carrier instant communications processing element) of the carrier network which is adapted to deliver the PoC communication session, the PICP being further adapted to receive and combine the signals of the private user devices into a combined signal which is communicated with a generic identifier and without any of the user identifiers of the private user devices.